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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,227	03/11/2004	Charles E. Taylor	SHPR-01360USF	3455

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EXAMINER

MARC, MCDIEUNEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3661

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,227

Applicant(s)

TAYLOR ET AL.

Examiner

McDieunel Marc

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/18/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-37 are presented for examination.
2. The request to correct filing receipt has been entered.
3. The preliminary amendment has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 15-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Allen et al.** (U.S. Pat. No. 5,995,884).

As per claims 15 and 27, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of using a robot cleaner (see fig. 3 element 9) comprising: using a robot cleaner to clean a room (see fig 1), the robot cleaner moving under its own control (see col. 10, lines 55-61 and fig. 3); attaching a supplemental cleaning element to the robot cleaner (see fig. 24 element 43); and carrying the robot cleaner and using the supplemental cleaning element to clean an object (see fig. 24 element 43).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time it was made to consider and introduce the control of Allen et al. as the robot's own control, this consideration would enhance the robot type of Allen et al., thereby improving the efficiency and the reliability of the robot vacuum.

As per claim 16, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of a cleaning method, wherein the supplemental cleaning unit connects to a connection port (the line connecting elements 43 and 121 of figure 24 being considered as connection port).

As per claims 17-19, 28-30, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of a cleaning method, wherein the connection port is on top of the robot cleaner (the connection port described above being considered to be on top or the bottom or adjacent to a vacuum inlet by design choice).

As per claims 20 and 31, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of a cleaning method, wherein the robot cleaner cleans in a serpentine pattern under its own control (see fig. 7 element 50, wherein the position of element 50 implies serpentine pattern).

As per claims 21 and 32, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of a cleaning method, wherein the robot cleaner has a handle (see fig. 6, wherein element 46 being considered as handle).

As per claims 22 and 33, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of a cleaning method, wherein the handle is part of the edge of the robot cleaner (see fig. 6, wherein element 46 being considered as handle which also considered as part of the edge).

As per claims 23 and 34, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of a cleaning method, wherein the supplemental cleaning element is a hose attachment (see fig. 10 element 65 being considered as hose).

As per claims 24-25 and 35-36, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of a cleaning method, wherein the supplemental cleaning element includes a brush (see fig. 10 element 66 being considered as hose/nozzle).

As per claims 26 and 37, Allen et al. teaches a system and an associated method of a cleaning method, wherein the supplemental cleaning element includes a crevice tool (see fig. 10 element 65 being considered as crevice tool).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-14 are allowed.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

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As per claims 1 and 8, Allen et al. teaches a cleaning method of operating a robot cleaner with a processor comprising (see fig. 3 element 9), however Allan *et al.* fail to teach or fairly suggest the steps of selecting a floor type mode, the floor type modes including a hard surface mode and a soft surface mode in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to McDieunel Marc whose telephone number is (703) 305-4478. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-5:00 Mon-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (703) 305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


McDieunel Marc

Monday, January 24, 2005

MM/


THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3600